

Your spring guide to great places and green living

www.oregon**metro.gov** 



cheer
stretch
prepare
flock
sow
listen
reveal



Wild ginger

# Wildflowers await

These walks explore bountiful blooms in the region

# Trillium Festival at Tryon Creek

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3 Welcome spring with the annual Trillium Festival at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Enjoy a native plant sale, guided nature hikes, children's crafts and activities, local crafts, vendors, live music performances and more at the only all-urban state park in Oregon! Free. Shuttle service available. For more information, call 503-636-4398. Friends of Tryon Creek and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

# In search of ... the wild Mount Talbert

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 10

Explore the springtime beauty of this unique lava dome as you wander through a white oak woodland in search of wildlife, spring blooms and geologic stories in the stones of Mount Talbert. One of the newest nature parks in the region, Mount Talbert is home to an incredible patchwork of habitats that provide welcome refuge for migrating songbirds such as warblers, tanagers, orioles and others. Learn new awareness skills and

put them to the test as you search for the elusive Western gray squirrel, raptor nests and the beginnings of the spring wildflower emergence. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for ages 10 to adult. Trails are on the rough side and steep in places. Cost is \$5 for adults; under 18 free. Registration and payment required in advance; call North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District at 503-794-8092 at least two weeks before the program date. *Metro* 

# Wild foods of a Forest Park spring

1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10 Join wild food expert and author John Kallas to learn about edible wild plants found in Northwest forests. Spring is when wildflowers are blooming and wild greens are ripe for picking. See wild violet, Solomon's seal, fairly bells, licorice fern, various fiddleheads, wild ginger and more. Learn the many ways they can be used as food. Explore Forest Park, one of the more beautiful forests in Portland's own backyard. Herbs, shrubs and trees with edible parts will be identified and sampled where appropriate. Suitable for ages 8 to 88. \$24 per adult; children pay their age. Advance

registration required; visit www.wildfoodadventures.com or call 503-775-3828. Wild Food Adventures

# Wildflowers of Camassia

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 13

Visit a unique landscape at Camassia Natural Area with naturalist Elvira Stenson, Learn about this area's geology and its wide variety of wildflowers. Pack lunch, water, dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes for hiking several miles on uneven terrain. This trip is part of James Davis' series of excursions based on his book, "The Northwest Nature Guide," which will be for sale at a 20-percent discount to trip participants. Meet at the Hollywood Fred Meyer; van transportation pick up and drop off in the eastern parking lot. \$16.50. The first three registrants who sign up with a friend get 20 percent off. For more information or to register, call 503-823-3601. Portland Parks & Recreation

# Looking for larkspurs and lilies

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 17

Cooper Mountain is a great natural area to explore with Metro naturalist and animal tracker Deb Scrivens. Controlled burns have encouraged a proliferation of native wildflowers including rare larkspur. This walk will focus on wildflowers, but if you are very lucky, you will spot the elusive lazuli bunting or perhaps a Western bluebird. Bring a snack and plenty of water for this stroll. Terrain is steep in places. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Cooper Mountain. \$10. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District



Pale larkspur and Cooper Mountain view

Follow GreenScene on Facebook and Twitter for frequent updates on flowers blooming in the region and where to see them, straight from Metro naturalists and scientists in the field.

www.facebook.com/metrogreenscene

www.twitter.com/metrogreenscene







Lazuli bunting

# Mother's Day birds and blooms

#### Sunday, May 8

nstead of taking flowers to mom this Mother's Day, why not take her to the wildflowers?

#### **Cooper Mountain**

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Join Metro naturalist Deb Scrivens for a hike through the prairies and oak woodlands of Cooper Mountain to see and learn about uncommon wildflowers. Enjoy the serenade of nesting songbirds and views of the Tualatin River. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Bring a snack and plenty of water for this stroll. Terrain is steep in places. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$10. For more information or to register, call 503-629-6350. Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District

#### **Canemah Bluff**

#### 1 to 3 p.m.

Join Metro naturalist Dan Daly for a leisurely stroll through Canemah Bluff Natural Area near Oregon City to see and learn about common wildflowers. Enjoy the serenade of nesting song birds and views of the Willamette River and historic Canemah cemetery. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. The walk covers two miles over uneven trails, mostly flat with some inclines. Suitable for adults and children age 6 and older. Registration and payment of \$6 per adult required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. Directions provided with registration. Metro

#### SUSTAINABLE LIVING

# Spring cleaning: Green the garage

Too much stuff in the garage to fit the car or the bike? From that old, broken fridge to the vinyl bag of bowling balls, 'tis the season for spring cleaning. Metro offers timely tips on reducing, reusing and recycling to get your garage in shape for summer.

#### Keep

Wondering what to keep? Determine whether you need the item now or if you'll use it in the next year. If neither, read on to the other options below. Before buying new items, consider renting or borrowing what you don't regularly use – for example, camping gear, tools for a one-time project or tableware for a party.

#### Sell

No use for that sewing machine or sporting equipment? If your unwanted items remain in good working condition without need for repair, consider selling them at a garage sale or using online services such as Craigslist or eBay. Other options include consignment shops and newspaper classified listings.

# Donate or give away

Not enough value to make selling something worthwhile? Many local nonprofits will accept unwanted clothing, home furnishings, tools or other useful items if they're in good condition. Call Metro Recycling Information to find the closest donation option for your materials. To give away still-good items that nonprofits don't accept, consider a classified ad or the online network Freecycle.

#### Recycle

If items need repair or appear too damaged for reuse, resale or donation, try recycling instead. Is it mostly metal? Does it have a plug? Is it electronic? Is it easily disassembled? Call Metro's recycling hotline for recycling options on common and unusual materials.

#### **Easy cleaning without toxics**



With the garage newly organized, it's easy to spiff up the space using common ingredients that save money and make cleaning safer for people, pets and the planet.

Try this no-wax floor cleaner made from everyday household products: add 1/2 cup vinegar to 2 tablespoons liquid soap in 1 gallon of hot water. Mix, mop and wipe clean.

Find more green cleaning recipes on Metro's website.

www.oregonmetro.gov/greencleaners



#### Did you know?

t's important never to discard toxic chemicals in the sink, on the ground, down a storm drain or in your garbage can. Many home, garden and car-maintenance chemicals can harm people, pets, wildlife and the environment.

From paints and pesticides to solvents and fluorescent lights. Metro accepts various types of household hazardous waste from residents for free recycling or disposal. Bring the products to one of Metro's two transfer stations year-round, or participate in one of Metro's household hazardous waste collection events, available March through November.

Even better? Help protect your family and the planet by choosing safer alternatives for cleaning, gardening, controlling pests and maintaining a beautiful yard. Learn more about toxic trash, including safer alternatives, items accepted by Metro's household hazardous waste program and proper preparation for recycling or disposal online.

#### www.oregonmetro.gov/hhw

Want more spring cleaning ideas? From reducing junk mail to properly disposing of paints, pesticides and other hazardous waste, call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000 or visit Metro's website for help.

www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling





# Welcoming wildlife

ast summer, Tricia Knoll watched in awe as a pileated woodpecker mined insects from alder snags that she and co-owner Darrell Salk have left in place on their Southwest Portland property. "That magnificent bird would not have been there had we not chosen to restore native habitat in our yard," she says.

Since they bought their home in 2008, Tricia and Darrell have worked to reclaim their third-of-an-acre property from blackberries and other invasive weeds. Together, they've renovated the yard to welcome wildlife with a diverse mix of native plants and trees and to protect the year-round creek that runs along the back. It's a labor of love that Tricia – the gardener-in-chief – has tackled with determination and passion. When she learned about the Backyard Habitat Certification Program for Portland property owners, she was eager to apply.

Managed by Columbia Land Trust and Audubon Society of Portland, the program helps private property owners restore native wildlife habitat in their yards by removing invasive weeds, landscaping with native plants, managing stormwater on site and providing the basic habitat requirements for wildlife such as water and shelter. Grants from Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program have supported this direct approach to working with private landowners since 2008. Additional funding has come from the East and West Multnomah soil and water conservation districts and other organizations. This year, a new Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant extends the program into East Multnomah County in partnership with the Johnson Creek

Watershed Council. The City of Lake Oswego will provide funding to expand certification to their residents beginning in July 2011.

Program participation starts with a site visit to assess what has already been done to restore wildlife habitat and to identify next steps to continue improvements. Some property owners qualify for one of the three levels of certification - silver, gold or platinum - at the first site visit. Others get specific advice on how to reach certification by enhancing or modifying their yard to become wildlife friendly. Every participant receives a wealth of informational resources, along with ongoing technical assistance and discounts on plants and supplies. Once certified, property owners earn an official Backyard Habitat Certification sign, gift cards and other perks.

"I'm very proud to have my sign out front," Tricia says about her gold Backyard Habitat Certification. "Neighbors stop and ask about it, and I enjoy telling them how they can do the same things in their yards." She especially likes reaching out to others. In August 2010, she hosted an open house for her Ash Creek Neighborhood Association and Master Gardeners.

#### Crickets in Kenton

n North Portland's Kenton neighborhood, John Goetze III and his wife Alison Sigler have transformed their yard with a diverse array of native plants and trees that have earned gold level Backyard Habitat Certification. In 2007, the couple began removing laurel and holly and digging out blackberries and ivy. A forester by profession, John replaced the invasive plants with a wide range of plants, including quaking aspen, salmonberry and native wildflowers. To manage stormwater, they disconnected their home's downspouts and installed rain barrels. To welcome species that need cavities for breeding, they hung bird nest boxes and installed mason bee houses to boost the garden's productivity.

John and Alison have enjoyed watching bird activity and variety increase, and John notes that birds "hang out" longer. Crickets also prospered this past summer, providing a nightly symphony of sound. "Our neighborhood is really quiet at night. But this summer, you'd hear the sound of chirping crickets as soon as you got near our house. It was really fun."

#### Get your yard buzzing and humming

S pring is a great time to make changes to your yard so you can enjoy more wildlife year-round. Visit www.columbialandtrust.org or audubonportland.org to find out how you can get the support you need and earn Backyard Habitat Certification. A \$25 initial site visit lasts approximately one hour.

# Metro invests in communities

etro's Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and enhancement grant program connects people to their neighborhoods, natural areas, backyards and beyond by investing in projects that strengthen the community, involve residents and deliver results. Since 2005, the Metro Council has funded 63 projects for a total of \$1.5 million in grants. Every Metro grant dollar has been matched by nearly \$5 in community investments. 2011 awards will be announced in June. Visit Metro's website for more information.

www.oregonmetro.gov/grants



#### Backyard habitats on the Gardens of Natural Delights<sup>™</sup> tour

See gorgeous organic yards and talk to real home gardeners about how they do it naturally. Learn their effective techniques and design ideas for nontoxic landscapes. From wildlife wonders to incredible edibles, from designers' dreams to outdoor entertaining extravaganzas, see how safe approaches serve every garden need.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 30.

One garden each Sunday. Limit of two Sundays per person. Garden addresses provided with registration. For tour details and to register, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/garden or call Metro Recycling Information at 503-234-3000.

# Tour schedule sneak peek

Incredible edibles of Debbie and Jim Krekos May 15 in West Linn

Nurturing naturescape of Char and Dave Corkran June 5 in Portland, Cedar Mill

Bella Madrona: the gardens of Sampson and Beasley June 12 in Sherwood

Horticultural haven of Lucy Hardiman June 19 in Southeast Portland

Creekside creativity of Dresden and John Skees-Gregory June 26 in Hillsboro

### Dig in and get growing

#### **Naturescaping basics**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 5 and April 2, and Sunday, April 10

Explore the core concepts of naturescaping, pollution prevention, watershed connections, native plant identification, site planning principals and more. Participants take a field trip to a nearby project, network with neighbors and identify native plants. Comprehensive workbook and a native plant provided. Meet at Whitaker Ponds Natural Area. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-935-5383. East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

#### Edible gardening 101

#### 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 8

This class is for people who may be new to food gardening, returning to it from an extended absence or starting over in a new climate. It introduces the garden calendar for this region and offers guidelines for what you need to do and when in order to be an effective grower in the Portland area. Meet at the One Stop Sustainability Shop, 1468 NE Alberta St., Portland. \$10. For more information, call 503-929-7170. *Independence Gardens* 

# Healthy soil for healthy plants

1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3 Got a lackluster landscape or veggie garden? Learn how to turn any soil into a fertile bed for roots using all-organic methods that help plants thrive without costly chemicals or harmful runoff. Plus, learn how to "read" your soil, prep it for planting and maximize slow-release fertilizers, compost and other soil amendments. Free. Meet at Schedeens, 845 NE 10th St., Gresham. Advance registration required; call 503-665-4730. Metro, OSU Extension and Shedeens

# Intensive vegetable gardening

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 20 and 27

The goal of intensive vegetable gardening is to harvest the most produce possible from a given space. Discover simple ways to maximize your garden through soil prep succession, sowing and companion planting. Take home newly sown seeds. Meet at Faubion School in Northeast Portland. \$35. Advance registration required; call 503-638-0735. Oregon Tilth

#### Green gardening fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 30

Learn sustainable gardening techniques such as composting, watering native plants and more at Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Visit the native plant sale to choose from a wide variety of native trees, shrubs and perennials. For more information, call 503-629-6350. Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

# Water less, save more

1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 14

Want to save on your water bill? Discover the secrets of low-maintenance plantscaping with beautiful, water-wise plants.

Learn how soil amendments, mulch and proper planting save water and prevent pest problems

without toxic chemicals. Plus, get the basics of efficient irrigation using sprinklers, soaker hoses or a drip system. Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6350. Metro, OSU Extension and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

# Container and vertical gardening

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 18

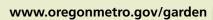
Learn how to grow bountiful vegetables in containers and use vertical gardening methods to save space. This class will show you how to start and maintain your own edible container garden from growing salad greens and culinary herbs to summer fruits. Topics include soil mixes, fertilizers, watering and how to trellis your favorite vining vegetables. Vegetable seedlings provided. Meet at Faubion School in Northeast Portland. \$35. Advance registration required; call 503-638-0735. Oregon Tilth

# Efficient watering workshop

10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 21

Find out how to protect local watersheds by reducing pollution. Learn how to calibrate your drip system soaker hoses, hose-end sprinklers or automatic sprinkler systems to match your plants' needs more accurately. Kit of conservation materials provided. Free. To register, call 503-284-6827, ext. 109. Community Energy Project

Discover workshops, videos, coupons, family activities and more on Metro's website.







xplore Hillsboro with your own two feet following this 1.6-mile (oneway) walking route. Find more great places to walk in the Portland-Vancouver area with Metro's Walk There! The easy to use guidebook leads you on 50 explorations of urban natural areas, scenic parks, historic neighborhoods and fascinating main streets. Detailed maps and route descriptions help you discover the region's rich history and varied landscapes while you enjoy the benefits of walking.

#### Why walk?

- Walking is one of the easiest and most effective ways to save money.
- Walking is an excellent way to maintain health. The more you walk, the better you feel.
- One quarter of all car trips in the United States could be replaced with a 20-minute walk.
- Mile for mile, walking burns as many calories as jogging but with far less stress on joints.
- Walking is good for the planet and reduces your carbon footprint.



### Rock Creek Trail

This paved trail extends north from Orchard Park to Rock Creek Boulevard in Hillsboro. While occasionally skirting residential and corporate complexes, it follows Rock Creek and provides a natural escape within the city. Combine this walk with an additional mile of paved trail and wetland boardwalks within the 21-acre Orchard Park.

Begin at the Orchard Park parking lot (20900 NW Amberwood Drive). Turn right on Amberwood, walk east to 206th to cross Amberwood, then walk west on it to the Rock Creek Trail sign. Follow the trail along Rock Creek, enjoying native vegetation and wildlife. At Cornell, again walk to 206th to cross, and then walk west on Cornell to the trail's continuation. The trail passes under the Sunset Highway and through towering evergreens to Rock Creek Park, Return on the same path.

Orchard Park, Oregon grape and blue anemones

Points of interest include hundreds of native trees and shrubs planted by Hillsboro Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers to maintain a healthy watershed. Invasive species are removed regularly to ensure that these native species can thrive. Habitat enhancement features such as swallow and duck houses have also been installed. Ducks are frequently seen along the trail and a great blue heron rookery is just north of Evergreen Parkway. A memorial bench provides a place to rest or just enjoy the scenery.

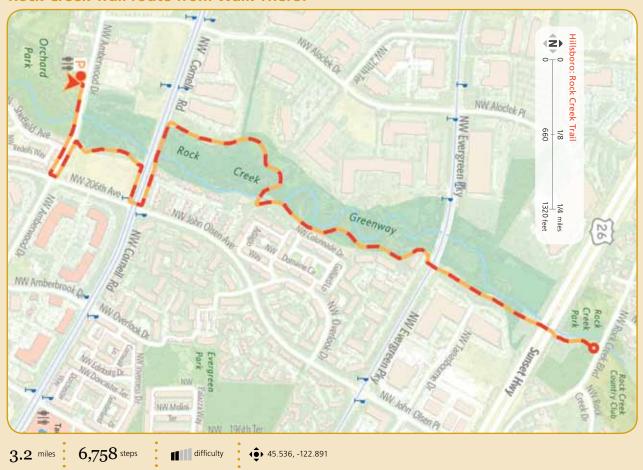
This is a paved ADA accessible trail, with some sections of boardwalk. Parts of the trail may be closed during periods of high water. Orchard Park offers restrooms and picnicking.

#### Flower power

Orchard Park opened in 2003 and is still fairly young. With each passing spring, the park's cherry blossom trees become more mature and spectacular. This spring, head to the start of the Rock Creek Trail leading into Orchard Park and walk among 70 blooming trees. The trees are planted in a grid to echo the orchards that once were prevalent in Hillsboro. Orchard Park also features a plethora of native plants and flowers, such as camas lily, mock orange, Oregon grape, red elderberry and native delphinium.

Stroll through Rood Bridge Park's rhododendron garden in Hillsboro this spring and enjoy stunning colors and native wildflowers. Blue anemones are just one of the native plants you will find along your walk. The park is located at 4000 SE Rood Bridge Road, Hillsboro.

#### **Rock Creek Trail route from Walk There!**



# Download a new audio tour of Graham Oaks

isten to a guided walking audio tour around Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville with guide Laura Foster. It's just like a museum tour, but along the park's three miles of relatively flat trails. Download the tour to your MP3 player or smart phone, grab a friend and head out to learn about Graham Oaks' rich history, amazing plants and animals, and the green building practices used in the park's creation. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere to download the audio tour and map.



#### Pedal Nation Bicycle Show

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 9 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 10

Dicycles are taking over the Oregon Convention Center for the Pedal Nation Bicycle Show. Fun, interactive bike activities will engage everyone in your family, plus check out Portland's largest display of bicycles, gear and apparel all under one roof. For more information, visit http://pedalnationevents.com. Presented by Drive Less/Save More

#### Portland Sunday Parkways kicks off in May

Portland Sunday Parkways promote healthy, active living through free events opening the city's streets to walkers, bikers, rollers and more. The traffic-free routes along neighborhood streets focus on one area of the city and connect parks that host music, food and fun activities like yoga, juggling, stilt walking and hula hooping. Events are held

one Sunday of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., May through September. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.portlandsundayparkways.org or call 503-823-5358. City of Portland Bureau of Transportation, Kaiser Permanente and Metro

www.oregonmetro.gov/walkthere

www.oregonmetro.gov/bikethere



# For Metro natural areas, 'boot camp' isn't just a day in the park



he day Metro buys a natural area, boot camp begins.

Erosion has to go. Ditto for illegal dumping. English ivy, thorny blackberry bushes and other pesky invasives? Good riddance. Houses must be spruced up as rentals, or torn down and parts recycled. On the other hand, the treasures

that make this land so valuable – Oregon white oak and salmon-bearing streams, turtle-rich wetlands and brilliant purple bursts of camas – are given every opportunity to thrive.

C. Bruce Forster photo

Joining the ranks of land protected by Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program is not an ending. It's the start of a strategic – and sometimes rigorous – transformation, designed to improve water quality, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations.

"We or our partners are going to manage these properties for many, many years," says Jonathan Soll, who leads Metro's science and stewardship team. "It's just like constructing a house – building a foundation to move up from is very important."

Since 1995, two bond measures have allowed Metro to protect 11,000 acres across the Portland metropolitan area. That's the equivalent of two Forest Parks. It's nearly enough land to cover the entire city of Beaverton. And

the acreage grows all the time, as Metro continues to purchase property in 27 key areas selected for their high-quality habitat and their potential to make a difference.

With so much land to care for, Metro's science team needs to move quickly and invest resources wisely. So, for about two years after a purchase, they work to stop short-term deterioration of natural resources and put the land on a long-term path toward success. Metro refers to this whipping-into-shape period as "stabilization," though it might as well be boot camp.

And natural resources scientist Kate Holleran, who has three decades of experience as a forester and college instructor, might as well be Sarge. During three years at Metro, Holleran has focused on training new recruits, so to speak.

# Regimen includes ousting weeds, saving oak

The job begins before Metro acquires a property. Holleran walks every potential natural area with one of Metro's real estate negotiators, taking notes on valuable plants and animals, restoration opportunities – and issues to address. After a property is signed up for purchase, Holleran returns with a member of the field staff that handles day-to-day management "so we know what we need to do the first or second or third week."

Or even the first or second or third day. Holleran and her colleagues often visit within 24 hours of closing on a property to put up gates, discouraging people from dumping tires or trash. Other priorities include marking boundaries, putting up or taking down fences and crafting a plan for the new natural area.

"On a really clean property in good condition, it might only take a year to get through key activities," Holleran says. "We have a few properties that go three years."

Some tasks are almost universal. Metro often fights weeds and other invasive plants, for example, replacing them with species that support wildlife and improve water quality. "Besides the fact that we don't want weeds – they don't fulfill any of the values for which we're buying a property – we also want to be a good neighbor," Holleran says.

Even at boot camp, building trust is important. Holleran typically sends a letter to introduce the Natural Areas Program to a new property's neighbors, and occasionally Metro attends or organizes a neighborhood meeting. After purchasing the 1,100-acre Chehalem Ridge Natural Area last year near Forest Grove,



Kate Holleran, Metro scientist

Metro hosted 90 nearby residents at McMenamins Grand Lodge to introduce the science team, field questions and listen to ideas.

Sometimes, getting acquainted is more old-fashioned. Holleran has sat at neighbors' kitchen tables, being regaled by stories of longago salmon sightings or unrelenting weeds.

"Nine out of 10 neighbors are very welcoming," Holleran says. "They're often glad we're there, because we are active managers. We do address weeds, we do address dumping, we do address illegal access. They're happy about that, because they don't want people parking in front of their house and dumping in their yard."

Other tasks are property-specific, and many require contract crews to ensure that Metro moves nimbly and keeps pace with all its properties. Working closely with the natural resource technician assigned to a natural area, Holleran devises plans to stabilize stream banks plagued by erosion. Metro also thins densely planted trees, which are common on land previously managed as a timber crop – but compete for food and light if they all grow into old age.

One of the most prized resources on Metro properties is Oregon white oak, which has declined dramatically throughout the Willamette Valley. At Chehalem Ridge, for example, Metro promptly removed Douglas fir trees that crowded an oak.

"The white oak might be 100 feet tall, but the Douglas fir can easily be 150 feet tall," Holleran says. "They'll shade out the white oak, and we'll lose it."

# Graduation day arrives, but restoration continues

When you're busy saving oak trees, ousting weeds and planting trees, two years pass quickly. But even the most troublesome natural area makes progress and begins to live up to its potential. Graduation day arrives.

When she hands off a property, Holleran leads a walking tour for science colleagues who oversee long-term management and restoration. She explains the history and suggests next steps.

A successful stabilization process is simply a new beginning, says Soll. Landscapes change over time, requiring constant vigilance. Invasive plants try to make a comeback, nearby development poses new threats.

"The idea of land stability is mostly a myth," Soll says. "You don't restore a property and say, 'Now we're done.'"



Chehalem Ridge Natural Area

C. Bruce Forster photo

#### 11,000 acres and counting

Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program funds land acquisition and capital improvements that protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, enhance trails and wildlife corridors, and provide greater connections to nature in urban areas throughout the Portland metropolitan area. Visit Metro's website for acquisition updates, information about grant opportunities and new projects near you.

www.oregonmetro.gov/naturalareas



## Profile of a boot camp success



**Hails from:** Johnson Creek watershed, Gresham area

Weighs in at: 20 acres
Purchased: 2007

**Strengths:** Johnson Creek flows through the property on its 26-mile path from its headwaters near the Sandy River to its junction with the Willamette River. The property is home to a variety of native plants and trees including Western red cedar, black cottonwood and Oregon ash, and provides important songbird and wildlife habitat.

**Weaknesses:** Severe erosion; 12-foot-tall blackberry; vegetation cleared by 14 horses on property; remaining shrubs were mostly invasive species

**Prescription:** Woodchips to slow erosion; horses removed from property; invasive weeds cut and chemically treated; native trees and shrubs planted

**Prognosis:** "The property will need a lot of tender loving care to make sure those plants survive," says Kate Holleran, natural resources scientist.

**Graduation date: 2010** 

# Springtime at Chehalem Ridge

#### 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 2

Choose your adventure at Chehalem Ridge Natural Area, joining one of two simultaneous explorations in this 1,100-acre forest. Located in the Chehalem Mountains near Forest Grove, the property features views of five Cascade peaks, streams flowing to the Tualatin River, beaver ponds and valuable oak habitat. It is the largest property acquired by Metro's voter-approved Natural Areas Program.

Nature walk Metro naturalist James Davis leads this walk looking

leads this walk looking for birds and springtime flowers and searching for the evidence mammals leave behind – scat, tracks, trails and other signs. This option requires moderate walking, with plenty of stops to check out the plants and wildlife. Walking is on dirt roads and is uneven and rocky in places. Transportation is provided between stops on the tour.

Science hike Learn how Metro is caring for the land-scape – and helping shape an old-growth forest that supports a rich array of plants and animals. A Metro scientist leads this trek through the woods, stopping to highlight ecosystems and restoration projects. Be prepared for a brisk three-mile walk, including uneven terrain off the main path.

Wear hiking boots, long pants and comfortable clothing, and bring water and snacks. Location provided with registration. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-797-1545. *Metro* 

# Spring calendar



#### **Puddle stompers** 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays, March 2, 16 and 30

Do you have a little one who enjoys being outdoors? Wondering what you can do outside for some rainy day fun? Bring your pre-kindergarten naturalists to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge to stomp in puddles and appreciate the wet weather that makes Oregon so green! Bring rain gear and rubber boots and be prepared to get wet and wild. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-625-5944, ext. 239. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



#### Volunteer work parties in Forest Park

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Thursday, and Saturdays, March 19, April 16 and May 21

Come to Forest Park for a volunteer work party focused on habitat restoration. No experience necessary. Tools, materials and training provided. Bring work gloves and wear sturdy footwear. Locations vary. Advance registration required; visit www.forestparkconservancy. org. Forest Park Conservancy



#### Ladybug nature walks

10 to 11 a.m. every Friday Explore nature in Portland's parks with trained naturalists. Adults learn how to help their child explore nature, and each child borrows a ladybug backpack filled with tools to explore. Suitable for ages 2 to 5. Locations vary. \$3 per preschooler; adults free. For more information, call 503-823-3601. Portland Parks & Recreation



#### 4T urban trail for teens

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 5

Adventure awaits you on trail, tram, trolley and train. Start the day riding the MAX to Washington Park. Hike from the Oregon Zoo to the city's highest point, Council Crest. Wander through the urban forest to Oregon Health and Science University, and hop on the tram for an airy descent. Ride the streetcar through the South Waterfront District and end the day back downtown. Suitable for ages 11 to 18. Meet at Director Park. \$15. Advance registration required; call 503-823-8840. Refer to course No. 337546. Portland Parks & Recreation



#### First Saturday work parties

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 5 and May 7

Join the battle against English ivy and Himalayan blackberry in the Clackamas River watershed. Work to remove these invasive species and replace them with natives. Location provided with registration. Advance registration required; call 503-558-0550. Clackamas River Basin Council



#### **W** Steigerwald habitat restoration

9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays and Sundays, March 5 through 27

Help plant trees and shrubs in riparian habitat next to Gibbons Creek. Individuals, families and groups welcome; large groups please call ahead. Wear waterproof shoes and dress for the weather. Tools and materials provided. Meet at the Gibbons Creek Trailhead. For more information, call 360-835-8767. Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards



#### // Ivy removal in **Forest Park**

8:45 a.m. to noon Saturdays, March 5 and 19, and April 2

Help remove invasive English ivy to improve native habitat in Forest Park. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Work gloves, tools and motivation provided. Family-friendly event. Meet at Lower Macleay Park. For more information, call 503-823-9423. Portland Parks & Recreation and No Ivy League



#### Owl Fest 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 5

Portland is teeming with owl activity in the spring. Come out for an evening of owl celebration with activities for the entire family, including owl pellet dissection, book reading and signing by local authors, snacks, guided hikes and up close encounters with the Audubon education owls, Hazel and Julio. Appropriate for all ages. Meet at Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Free. For more information, call 503-636-4398. Friends of Tryon Creek



#### Watershed Wide volunteer restoration

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5

Attend this annual volunteer restoration event and help complete important restoration work at several sites throughout the watershed - planting trees that will grow to shade the creek, and removing invasive weeds to clear the way for native shrubs that provide food and nesting sites for wildlife. Work parties are followed by a volunteer appreciation lunch. Locations provided with registration. Advance registration required; call 503-652-7477. Johnson Creek Watershed Council



## Wildlife tracking

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, April 24

Connect to nature through an ancient way of seeing and experiencing the mysteries of the natural world. Learn to see animals such as bear, elk and cougar as though they are part of an extended family. Explore tracking as an effective tool for expanding awareness and developing naturalist skills. \$25. For more information, call 866-400-3652. **TrackersNW** 



#### **Guided tours of** Magness Tree Farm

2 to 3:30 p.m. every Sunday Join staff and volunteers every Sunday, rain or shine, for a fun and informative tour of Magness Memorial Tree Farm in Sherwood. Learn to identify different trees and all about sustainable forestry. Meet in the parking lot at 31195 SW Ladd Hill Road. Free. For more information, call 503-228-1367. World Forestry Center



#### Wild about Cooper Mountain

1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays, March 9 and 30

Who is hiding in that hole? Is it a mouse or something else? Learn about what lives in holes and what hibernates. Class may include a walk, stories, hands-on activities, games and crafts. Suitable for ages 4 to 6. \$13. Meet at Cooper Mountain Nature Park. For more information, call 503-629-6350. Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District





GreenScene











#### English ivy bike basket class

#### 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13

Learn to weave a simple bike basket out of the invasive species English ivy. Restore and maintain native habitat of city parks by removing ivy, then recycle the cast-off vines into a functional work of art. This is a two-part event; learn how to gather ivy and prevent it from growing back on Saturday. On Sunday, learn to weave the materials into a basket and attach it to your bike. \$95. For more information, call 503-863-8462. Rewild Portland



#### **Protect Terwilliger Parkway**

9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. March 12, April 9 and May 14 Help protect and enhance the forest corridor of Terwilliger Parkway by removing invasive plant species. Tools, gloves, water and instruction provided. Wear long sleeves, long pants and sturdy shoes. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Meet at the public restrooms at Southwest Terwilliger and Hamilton streets. For more information, call 503-293-1069. Friends of Terwilliger



#### **Spring bird walks** at Smith and Bybee Wetlands

9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, March 12, April 9 and 23 and

Spring brings more than 25 different songbirds to join the resident birds at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. April and May are the peak of migration, with nesting in high gear during May and June. The birding action will be lively and noisy. Learn to identify birds by sight and song. Walks are led by Metro naturalist James Davis or Patty Newland, volunteer naturalist and Audubon Master Birder. Meet in the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Free. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. Metro 💄



#### **Nature awareness** and stealth

1 to 4 p.m. Sundays, March 13 and April 3 Understanding the shadows of the forest not only helps you better see the secrets of the wild, but also takes you into an entirely new world of observation and awareness. Learn how the principals of camouflage apply to both primitive and modern living. \$25. For more information, call 866-400-3652. Trackers NW



#### **TogetherGreen Volunteer Days**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, March 19 and April 23

Audubon's 150-acre nature sanctuary needs your help! Begin the day with a continental breakfast, work on major trail and sanctuary projects, break for pizza in the early afternoon, enjoy meeting one of the education birds and end the day by finishing up the projects. Must be 14 years or older; participants age 14 to 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland. Advance registration required; call 503-292-6855, ext. 108. Audubon Society of Portland



#### Beautify the I-205 multi-use path

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 19, April 2, April 9, April 23

Join this ongoing project to plant thousands of trees and native plants from Marine Drive to Gladstone. Coffee and breakfast treats, gloves, tools and guidance provided. Under 18 only permitted with waiver, available online. Meet at Southeast Schiller St. and Southeast 94th Ave. For more information, call 503-282-8846, ext. 18 or visit www.friendsoftrees.org. Metro, Oregon Department of Transportation and the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District



#### Native Plant Center volunteer ventures

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, March 26, April 16 and 30, and May 14 and 21 Come celebrate spring at

Metro's Native Plant Center in

Tualatin. Discover the joys of propagating sensitive native species to support regional restoration projects. Volunteers help plant native seeds, bulbs and seedlings, maintain native seed grow-out beds and work with local herbaceous species. No experience necessary. Gloves, tools, water and snack provided. Advanced registration required; call 503-797-1653. Metro 💄 by arrangement



#### Plant trees in Durham **City Park**

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Help with the re-vegetation of native plants and trees in the Fanno Creek and Tualatin River watersheds. Coffee and donuts provided. Gloves, tools and guidance provided; wear sturdy boots. Under 18 only permitted with waiver, available online. Meet at Durham City Park. For more information, call 503-282-8846, ext. 18 or visit www. friendsoftrees.org. Metro, Clean Water Services and the City of Durham



#### Bird watching basics for beginners

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31

Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting beginning bird watchers off to a good start for 30 years. Discuss the basics of bird identification, talk about the best field guides and binoculars and view slides of the top 20 birds of the Portland metropolitan area. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$11 required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. Metro



#### Sauvie Island Center volunteer training

8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday, April 1

This training is for new volunteers who wish to begin this spring. Lunch provided. Background check required, to be filled out at the training. Meet in the large red barn behind the white Howell House at Howell Territorial Park on Sauvie Island. Free. Advance registration required by March 28; call 503-341-8627. Sauvie Island Center



#### Smith and Bybee **Wetlands** paddles

Traveling by canoe or kayak is the best way to explore Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Watch for bald eagles, great blue herons and beaver lodges. Bring a canoe or kayak, binoculars, water and snacks. Free. Advance registration required. Friends of Smith and Bybee Wetlands

#### noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 2

To register, call Dale Svart at 503-285-3084.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7

To register, call Troy Clark at 503-249-0482.



## **Sauvie Island Center**

10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 5

Take a tour of the farm and grounds of the 120-acre Howell Territorial Park. The Sauvie Island Center increases food, farm and environmental literacy in the community by providing hands-on educational field trips for elementary school children. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-341-8627. Sauvie Island Center



#### Songbird identification class

7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5

Oregon songbirds are not only beautiful to look at, but they also tell us about the integrity of the environment. This class will teach participants how to identify the most common songbirds found during peak birding times. Metro naturalist James Davis leads the class. Slides, sounds and possibly specimens are used to prepare birders for the great variety of songbirds found in Gresham and beyond. Meet at Gresham Conference Center. Free. For more information, call 503-618-2604. City of Gresham



#### **Tadpole Tales**

#### 10 to 11:30 a.m.

# Wednesdays in April and

Join this exciting outdoor education program for parents and children ages 3 to 5. Participants enjoy a colorful storybook, takehome crafts and an interactive nature hike. Themes may include birds, bugs, frogs or flowers. Meet at Whitaker Ponds Natural Area. \$3 donation per child. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132. Columbia Slough Watershed Council



#### Native trees hike 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7

Celebrate Oregon's Arbor Week with a guided hike in Forest Park. Join the Conservancy's stewardship director and naturalist Stephen Hatfield for a spring tour of the park's most common native trees. Suitable for ages 10 and older. \$10 per person; free for members. Location provided with registration. Advance registration required; call 503-223-5449. Forest Park Conservancy



#### Painted turtle walks 1 to 2:30 p.m.

#### Saturdays, April 9 and May 28

Oregon's turtles are rare, shy and hard to find, but Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is home to one of the largest populations of Western painted turtles in Oregon. See these beautiful reptiles with the help of Metro naturalist James Davis, who provides small telescopes for a close look. Suitable for ages 5 and older. Meet in the parking lot on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; see page 15 for instructions. Metro



#### Sandy River restoration expo

#### 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 9

Learn how you can become a part of the watershed-wide restoration effort in the Sandy River Basin, home to wild salmon, Portland's water supply and some of the region's most extraordinary rivers from Timberline to Troutdale. Learn how to improve water quality and habitat in

morning workshops, and join afternoon Streams of Dreams field tours to visit ongoing restoration projects. Free. Meet at Sandy High School. For more information, call 503-668-1646. Sandy River Basin Watershed Council



#### **Mammals of Portland** 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday,

#### April 14

Did you know you can see mink, beaver and river otter at Oxbow Regional Park and Smith and Bybee Wetlands? What kind of squirrels are those running around your neighborhood? Are there really mountain lions and bears in Forest Park? How can you tell beaver, muskrat and nutria apart? Metro naturalist James Davis shows you how to identify the mammals that live in your neighborhood and in Metro's parks and natural areas. Examine pelts, skulls, slides, stuffed specimens and even some scat to help you become familiar with local furry critters. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$11 per person required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. Metro \_\_



#### Brunch with the birds 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 15

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for a bird watching tour of Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Learn the basics, meet slough neighbors and enjoy a delicious meal. Suitable for ages 12 and older. Meet at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Free. Advance registration required; call 503-281-1132. Columbia Slough Watershed Council



#### **SOLV IT for Earth Day** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 16

Join SOLV and thousands of other volunteers to celebrate Earth Day by giving back to Oregon. Clean up litter, pull invasive plants, plant native trees and shrubs and enhance habitat at roughly 75 different projects in the Portland area. For more information and a list of locations, call 503-844-9571, ext. 332. SOLV



#### Wild foods of Oxbow 8 a.m. to noon Saturday,

#### April 16

Join wild food expert and author John Kallas to learn about trees, shrubs and herbs of North America that are found at Oxbow Regional Park. Find a diversity of edible wild plants including fiddlehead fern, elderberries, Solomon's seal, fairly bells, nettles, red huckleberries, salmonberry and more. Suitable for ages 8 to 88. \$25 per adult; children pay their age. Advance registration required; visit www.wildfoodadventures. com or call 503-775-3828. Wild Food Adventures



#### Introduction to the language of the birds

#### 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 17

Would you like to understand what the birds are saying? Join naturalists Dan Daly, Elisabeth Neely and Patty Newland at Oxbow Regional Park for this introduction to the fascinating art of interpreting the meaning of bird songs and calls. Using methods learned from renowned tracker Jon Young, this popular class combines modern birding tools and techniques with ancient awareness skills known to native people worldwide. Class is held outdoors; bring a notepad, sack lunch and something to sit on in the woods. Suitable for adults and teens. Meeting location dependent on weather; ask at the park gate. Registration and program fee of \$11 per person required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. There also is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee to the park, payable at the gate. Metro

#### Spring bird identification class

#### 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21

Spring brings thousands of migrating birds to our region; some stay to nest and others pass through. Get ready for great spring birding action with this crash course in identifying spring migrants and summer breeders. Metro naturalist James Davis shows slides, plays some easy bird songs and simplifies what seems like a confusing variety of birds to many beginners. This

class is excellent preparation for bird walks at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$11 per person required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. Metro



#### Bird monitoring orientation for Gresham

#### 9:45 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 23

Gresham has an amazing diversity of birds and every year new species are spotted within city limits. Improve your identification skills and help spot sensitive species to ensure their habitat is kept intact by participating in a citywide bird survey. Surveys are relatively short and can be scheduled at the participants' convenience. Meet in the Gresham City Hall council chamber. For more information, call 503-618-2604. City of Gresham



#### **Blue Lake Bunny** Bonanza

#### 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 23

Bring the family to Blue Lake Regional Park for a fun-filled candy egg hunt, rain or shine. Children age 4 and younger begin their search at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 5 to 10 seek their treats beginning at 11 a.m. Enjoy a hoppin' good time with free face painting and coloring activities under covered shelters. Free with your annual pass, or park entry fee of \$5 per car or \$7 per bus. For more information, call 503-665-4995. Metro

#### Songbird walks at Cooper Mountain

#### 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays, April 23 and May 7

Spring is the easiest time to see and identify the birds of Cooper Mountain since they are in their best breeding plumage and singing up a storm. Join Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis for this bird walk for beginning and intermediate birdwatchers. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair on site. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Meet at the Nature House. Registration

and payment of \$10 required in advance; call 503-629-6350. Metro and Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District



#### **Stream Team Earth** Day celebration

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23

Join the Stream Team for the 11th annual Earth Day celebration. Enjoy kids' activities, wildlife entertainment and more. Help plant native trees and protect local waters. Training and supplies provided. Participate in an environmental expression contest for students based on the theme "What does your watershed mean to you?" Meet at Salmon Creek Park by Klineline Pond. Free. Advance registration required; call 360-992-8585. Clark Public Utilities



#### Volunteer at the Children's Clean **Water Festival**

7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 26

More than 1,000 local fourth and fifth grade students are expected at the Children's Clean Water Festival at PCC-Sylvania campus. Through classroom presentations, stage shows and exhibits, the children learn about watershed ecology and the vital role water plays in our everyday lives. More than 70 volunteers are needed for this event. No experience needed: training and lunch provided. For more information or to register, call 503-665-4179. Rockwood Water Public Utility District



#### Reptiles and amphibians

7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 28

Are there really boas living in Portland? Do we have any venomous snakes? Can eating a newt kill a grown man? Why are bullfrogs such a problem in Oregon? People have been confused by reptiles and amphibians forever. It was so confusing that they were lumped together, and the study of these animals became called herpetology, which means "creeping things." The Portland region does not have a lot of "herps" - so it is easy to sort

out the lizards, snakes, turtles, frogs and salamanders that live among us. Learn about what it means to be "cold-blooded" or ectothermic. Look at photos and a few live specimens. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$11 per person required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. Metro



#### **Birding Killin** Wetlands

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30 Killin Wetlands in Banks, also known to birders as Cedar Canyon Marsh, is a great place to see (or at least hear) three very hard to find marsh birds: American bittern, sora and Virginia rail. Many other common wetland birds are seen here this time of year. Join naturalist James Davis at this special place protected by Metro's Natural Areas Program. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Directions provided with registration. Registration and payment of \$6 per person required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. Metro



#### Warblers of Oregon 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5

One of the most colorful and musical groups of birds to arrive in spring is the warblers. The different species in the Portland area can be quite confusing to beginning and experienced birders alike. Let Metro naturalist and expert birder James Davis make warbler identification easier for you. This class takes place near the peak of warbler migration so you can get out right away and practice your new skills. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center. Registration and payment of \$11 per person required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. Metro



Sandy River Spey Clave



#### Sandy River rafting 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 7

Embark on a guided rafting adventure on the lower Sandy River, class 1+ (moving water and riffles, no rapids). Journey through the ancient forest of Oxbow Regional Park past the ghostly remains of a buried forest and into some of the best animal tracking areas that this region has to offer. The four-hour float starts and ends at Dabney State Park and includes equipment rental, instruction and shuttle to the launch site. Snack provided; bring a sack lunch. \$45 per adult; \$30 per child under 12. Suitable for ages 8 and older; minors must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required; visit www. northwestriverguides.com or call 503-772-1122. Metro and Northwest River Guides



#### ■ Women on Bikes clinic

10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, May 7 and 14

On May 7, join a conversation about how to choose the right bike and best gear, riding techniques, laws and route planning. You do not need to bring your bike. On May 14, bring your bike and tools. Gracie's Wrench will cover basic bike maintenance, flat tire repair and cleaning techniques. Meet at Peninsula Park Community Center. Free. For more information, call 503-823-5358. City of Portland



#### **Tualatin River Bird Festival**

6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 12 through Sunday, May 15

Participate in bird and habitat walks, nature photography and art workshops, and winery eco-habitat tours. Enjoy live bird shows, naturalist lectures, music and food. Build a bird house, make a native basket or participate in hands-on conservation activities geared toward kids. Free. Advance registration encouraged. For more information, call 503-625-5944, ext. 227. Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge 1



#### Sandy River Spey Clave

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15

Come to Oxbow Regional Park for the largest gathering of anglers devoted to two-hand fly rod fishing in the Western Hemisphere. Visit booths displaying the latest tackle and enroll in the free Spey casting college, open to everyone. View on-the-water casting demonstrations by experts. Attend Friday's women's day presentations by female instructors followed by a potluck dinner and presentations Friday night. Breakfast and lunch provided Saturday and Sunday. Overnight camping is available in the park on a first-come, firstserved basis for \$20 per night (up to 6 people per site). Gates lock at official sunset. Pets and alcohol are not allowed. Free with a \$5 entrance fee to the park. For more information, call 503-622-4607. Fly Fishing Shop and Metro

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#### **Smith and Bybee** Wetlands kayak tour

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 21

Have you always wanted to go paddling on Smith and Bybee wetlands but don't have a boat? Let NW Discoveries provide the boat, paddle and personal flotation device for this three-hour kayak adventure. Learn about local wildlife and the natural history of the wetlands from Metro naturalist James Davis. Some kayaking experience recommended. Suitable for ages 14 and older. Participants ages 14 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. All participants provided a solo kayak. A couple of tandem kayaks are available if requested by a pair of paddlers. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$25 per person required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. Metro

#### Animal tracking workshop at Oxbow

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21

For a tracker, Oxbow Regional Park is paradise at this time of year, when beaver, otter, fox, mink, mouse and deer leave their stories in the sand. With practice, beginners can learn to read the ground like an open book. Seasoned tracker Terry Kem introduces participants to the basics of track identification and interpretation along with the awareness skills needed to watch wildlife at close range. Suitable for adults and families. Bring a snack and meet at the floodplain parking area. Registration and payment of \$11 per adult required in advance; see page 15 for instructions. There is a \$5 per vehicle entry fee, payable at the gate. Metro

#### **Sustainability Day** 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 21

Join Portland State University students and Friends of Tryon Creek to learn simple ways to live in tune with the earth. Walk through the park and visit stations along the trails to find ideas about how to eat seasonally and locally. Learn creative ways to reuse and recycle more efficiently. Meet at Tryon Creek Nature Center. Free. For more information, call 503-636-4398. Friends of Tryon Creek



#### Memorial Weekend at Lone Fir Cemetery

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 28 through Monday, May 30

Volunteer at an information table at Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery and provide information about grave locations and historic information about the cemetery. For more information, call 503-224-9200. Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery



#### Smith and Bybee Wetlands canoe and kayak tour

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 4

Join Metro naturalist James Davis and learn about local wildlife and the natural history of the area on a three-hour canoe and kayak tour of the wetlands. Boat, paddle and flotation device provided by NW Discoveries. Participants can select solo kayaks, a tandem kayak with a partner or a canoe with a partner. Two adults in a canoe can add one or two children to ride in the middle at reduced cost. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$25 per adult (age 14 and older) and \$5 per child (ages 5 to 13) accompanied by one paid adult required two weeks in advance; call 503-797-1650 option 2. Metro



#### **Smith and Bybee** Wetlands canoe

bimaran tour 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 4 Try out a canoe bimaran (two canoes lashed together with 2 x 6 boards) with your child for a two-hour paddle on the wetlands with Metro naturalist James Davis. Bimarans are very stable and ideal for first timers. Suitable for ages 5 and older. Meet at the Smith and Bybee canoe launch. Registration and payment of \$10 per adult (age 14 and older) and \$5 per child (ages 5 to 13) accompanied by one paid adult

required two weeks in advance;

call 503-797-1650 option 2.

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Metro

#### **Featured places**

A special event at one of Metro's parks is not only beautiful, but also economical. The Lake House at Blue Lake Regional Park provides a tranquil setting for weddings, receptions, recitals, banquets, conferences, corporate functions and meetings. It is located just 10 minutes from Portland International Airport, and 20 minutes from downtown Portland. Take advantage of this one-story, 2,080-square-



foot space with indoor seating with a beautiful view of the lake through large windows. Rather be outside? Consider the outdoor garden space with a brick courtyard, two bathrooms, a covered patio and fireplace. For more information or to make a reservation, call 503-665-4995 or e-mail susan.lowe@oregonmetro.gov.

#### **Blue Lake Regional Park**

20500 NE Marine Drive, Fairview 503-665-4995

#### **Oxbow Regional Park**

3010 SE Oxbow Parkway, east of Gresham 503-663-4708

#### Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

5300 N. Marine Drive, Portland 503-797-1650

#### **Mount Talbert Nature Park**

10695 SE Mather Road, Clackamas 503-742-4353

#### **Cooper Mountain Nature Park**

18892 SW Kemmer Road, Beaverton 503-629-6350

#### Metro's Natural Techniques Garden

6800 SE 57th Ave., Portland 503-234-3000

#### **Graham Oaks Nature Park**

11825 SW Wilsonville Road, Wilsonville 503-797-1545

#### **Oregon Zoo**

4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland www.oregonzoo.org 503-226-1561

# Metro parks honor veterans and service members May 21

n recognition of the men and women who serve in the U.S. military, Metro's Blue Lake and Oxbow regional parks are offering free admission for veterans and service members on Armed Forces Day.

# How to register for Metro nature activities

You can now register online for Metro activities, and pay online for activities with a fee. Go to Metro's online calendar, find your event by searching or browsing, and follow the instructions.

#### www.oregonmetro.gov/calendar

If you have any questions or prefer to register by phone, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

#### Refund policy

Metro's \$5 programs are nonrefundable. Requests for all other refunds must be received 48 hours in advance of event. Cancellations exempt.



Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy, and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

Stay in touch with news, stories and things to do.

www.oregonmetro.gov/connect

#### Metro Council President

Tom Hughes

#### **Metro Council**

Shirley Craddick, District 1
Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Barbara Roberts, District 6

#### Auditor

Suzanne Flynn

#### On the cover

Vine maple and girls helping plant natives for Backyard Habitat certification.

#### If you have a disability and need

accommodations, call 503-813-7565, or call Metro's TDD line at 503-797-1804. If you require a sign interpreter, call at least 48 hours in advance. Activities marked with this symbol are wheelchair accessible:

#### **Bus and MAX information**

503-238-RIDE (7433)

To be added to the GreenScene mailing list or to make any changes to your mailing information, call 503-797-1650 option 2.

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# Talk back to your government

Join the new opinion panel and let Metro know what's important to you. You'll be entered into drawings for gift cards and other prizes.



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